

# *The* **SOUTHEAST NEWS**

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 3 - Number 6

MARCH, 1955

## One Great Hour of Sharing



**United Appeal for  
Relief and Reconstruction**

**March 20, 1955**

## Convention - PF Meeting

The first annual Pilgrim Fellowship Conference will be held March 19 and 20 at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church in Lanett, Ala., with Langdale, Todd, West Point Bethel and Lanett Highway churches cooperating as hosts.

Theme for the meeting is "Our Program of Progress".

Officers of the Pilgrim Fellowship, Millard Fuller, president; Albert Van Cleave, vice president, and Inas Dillard, Secretary, planned the program with the Rev. Annie R. Campbell and the host pastor, the Rev. Joe A. French. Registration will begin at 10:30 A.M. on March 19th. During the afternoon four workshop sessions will be held as follows: FAITH—Harold Hardy, Chairman; Leader, Lois Scott. ACTION—Albert Van Cleave, chairman; Leader, James Price, national PF associate. FELLOWSHIP—Wilfordine Royal, chairman; Leader, Rev. Erston M. Butterfield. THE CHURCH SCHOOL—Betty Slater, chairman; Leader, Miss Mildred Widbur, national secretary.

The evening program will feature a movie on India, "The Village of the Poor", India being the mission study for the year.

On Sunday morning the delegates will divide for discussion, the Junior High group with Miss Widbur; the Senior High group with James Price; and the College Age group with Rev. Carl Dollar. Mr. Price will give the morning message.

After the noon luncheon at the church, there will be a business meeting and election of officers for the coming year. A Service of Installation for the officers and a Communion Service will be under the direction of the Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, President of Southern Union College. Deacons will be the PF presidents of association and state organizations—Joe Adams, Harold Hardy, and the Misses Wilfordine Royal and Sandra Mason. Adjournment has been planned for 3:00 P.M.

All PF groups over the convention area are urged to send delegates to this important meeting.

## Architecture Institutes

Sponsored jointly by the Convention Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education and the Church Building Department of the Board of Home Missions, Dr. John R. Scotford will be here April 24-May 1 for a series of area institutes to advise with local churches on building, remodeling and decorating churches. Each institute will have an afternoon and evening session, and all churches with building or remodeling problems are urged to send committees to consult with Dr. Scotford at the nearest institute. Detailed information has gone out to all ministers, and the Rev. Joe A. French is in charge of Dr. Scotford's itinerary.

Dr. Scotford is the Church Building Consultant for the denomination, having served more than 500 churches, and author of *The Church Beautiful* and *When You Build Your Church*, as well as being editor of the magazine *Protestant Church Administration and Equipment*.

During the second week of his visit to the Southeast Convention, Dr. Scotford will teach a

## Dr. McCracken Announces New Series of Articles for "Advance Magazine"

Soon to appear on the pages of Advance, our denominational publication, will be a series of articles, approximately twelve in number, which will present the practices, polities and activities of our Congregational Christian churches and of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, starting with the local church and reaching out from this organic center to the ecumenical circumference. Articles will be prepared by representative spokesmen of the two communions, and will be published side by side on facing pages.

Advance asks you to stand by for this informative series and to alert all members of your churches to this venture in mutual understanding.

It has been suggested that each church adopt the policy of presenting each new member with a year's subscription to Advance as part of a warm-hearted program of new-membership integration. New members coming from other denominations or none at all know little of the traditions, concerns, missionary and ecumenical enterprises in which Congregational Christians are engaged. Advance can be the means of introducing them to the larger, fuller fellowship at a time when their enthusiasm is most keen, when they are most responsive.

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## Southern Union Notes

Friends of the college are encouraged by the progress of the Building Fund for a new dormitory on the Southern Union campus. The raising of a Building Fund was approved by the Board of Trustees meeting February 1, 1955. Although the campaign is still in the planning stage, the fund has already passed \$5,000.

Present plans are for a Work Camp of volunteers to help with construction this summer of the first unit of new dormitory facilities for girls. Contributions should be made to THE SOUTHERN UNION COLLEGE for Building Fund and addressed c/o President Clyde C. Flannery, Wadley, Ala.

On Saturday evening, February 26, the East Alabama Laymen's Fellowship held its annual ladies' night at the college dining hall with Dr. Thos. Anderson of Atlanta as principal speaker.

President Flannery is in New England speaking in behalf of the college during the first half of March. On April 19 he will be host to the New England and Mid-West Mission Study Tours.

—David Eddy

## ADVANCE 10% CLUB

The Ten-Percent Club is made up of those churches in which 10% or more of the active resident members are subscribers. Southeast Convention churches are as follows: Birmingham Pilgrim, Wadley Congregational, Demorest Federated, Evarts First, Chattanooga Pilgrim, and Crossville First.

course at the Ministers' Convocation at Southern Union College (May 2-6) as guest lecturer.

# Christian Education and PF Area Institutes



MISS MILDRED WIDBER

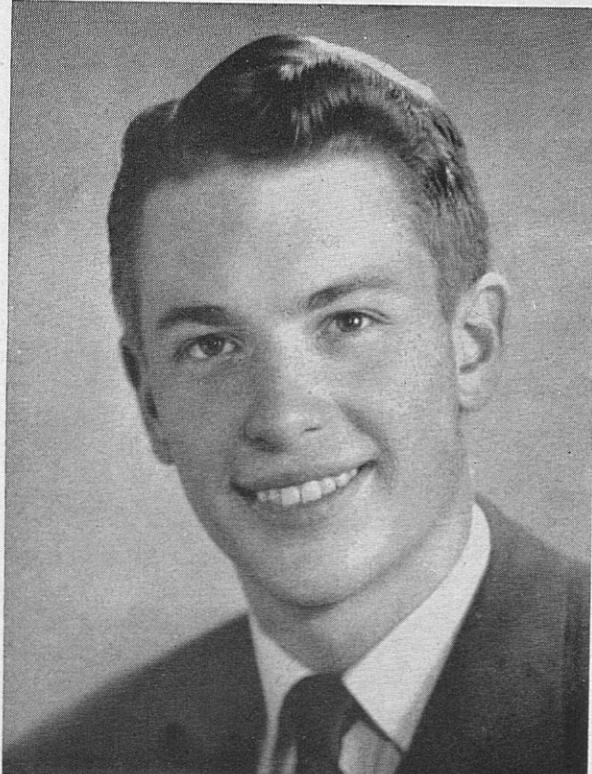
"Every child needs faith in God. A child's faith has its beginnings in the faith of his parents. In the beginning, as far as he understands it, his parents' thought of God will be the child's thought, too," says Miss Mildred C. Widber, Secretary of the Department of Leadership and Field Program of the Division of Christian Education for the Congregational Christian Churches. Miss Widber will be in the Southeast Convention March 15 through 31 for a series of area institutes and training sessions on Christian education.

"Family conviction and the activities we carry on because of our convictions are important. The causes to which we give loyalty, time, energy, ability and money, all reveal our attitudes, our points of view, our sense of values. In so far as they are in accord with our spoken words of religious faith, they mightily influence our children and help or hinder their own growing faith," adds Miss Widber.

A Maine girl by birth, Miss Widber followed graduation from Bates College with work as parish assistant in the High Street Church of Auburn. In 1926 she went to the University of Chicago for graduate work, serving at the same time as a student worker at Bryn Mawr Community Church where she was later educational associate.

In 1930 Miss Widber came to the Educational Department of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions where she was Children's Secretary until she took the post of National Secretary of Children's Work for the entire

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JAMES PRICE

James Price of Boston, Mass., young Youth Associate in the national Young People's Department of the Congregational Christian Churches, will visit in the Southeast Convention March 15 through 31 for a series of Pilgrim Fellowship area institutes, in connection with the Christian Education Institutes being held with Miss Mildred C. Widber.

Each year the Congregational Christian Churches selects one young person of outstanding leadership ability to be a Youth Associate and to travel extensively throughout the country meeting with groups of young people and leaders of youth.

Mr. Price (Stanford University 1954) was born near San Francisco, Calif., the son of a Congregational minister. Following this present year of service as Youth Associate he will go into theological seminary to train for the ministry.

Active both locally and nationally in the Pilgrim Fellowship, the youth organization of our denomination, Mr. Price has been President of the Northern California Pilgrim Fellowship and Chairman of the National Pilgrim Fellowship Social Action Commission. He also served as Vice President of the National Pilgrim Fellowship.

In the summer of 1953 Mr. Price went as a PF delegate to the International Congregational Council in St. Andrews, Scotland, and then on to the continent as a member of the Council of Social Action study tour of Europe.

In 1953 he was appointed as one of six United States members on the World Council of Churches

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## THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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#### STAFF

Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Supt. ..... Editor  
Rev. C. Carl Dollar ..... Director, Extension Service  
Mrs. Ed. A. Albright ..... Registrar  
Mrs. Jettie Logan ..... Promotion

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### Dreams Do Come True

Towns were devastated, families were separated, and all the familiar so frighteningly changed. Despair, confusion, and hopelessness seemed the easier, more popular reaction in Kyoto, Japan, in the years following the war. But the brilliant light of a cherished dream sparked the drabness about the determined young orphan, Sumiko Nakamura, a Japanese Congregationalist who attended one of our mission schools.

Her conscientious and extraordinary work in a Kyoto hospital brought her the highest rating of any of the native employees, and also the interest and love of American Dr. Gist and his wife. Dr. Gist served as Obstetrician in the Army hospital, returning to the States in July of 1954 and now living in Summerville, Ga. The Gists feel that now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to back up our Christian teaching by truly Christian effort in understanding and helping the Japanese. One concrete step they took was to sponsor Sumiko in America to help her realize her dream to study here and return to Japan to help her people. Week by week she saved every possible yen, and at long last she herself had miraculously accumulated enough for her round trip passage to America.

In November of 1954 it was a brave Sumiko who landed, breathless and wide-eyed, in California and rode a bus to Rome, Ga., where Mrs. Gist had arranged for her to attend Shorter College.

Dr. Edwin S. Gaustad, had written that Shorter College would be most happy to grant all tuition and fees to Sumiko, but that it was usually necessary to seek assistance elsewhere for a foreign student's room and board.

Circle No. 2 of Central Church in Atlanta has agreed to contribute to Sumiko's expenses, and is planning to add personally to her stay with visits, special treats, and clothes.

If any other women's fellowship groups within the Southeast Convention would like to help to sponsor Sumiko Nakamura, inquiries should be made through the Convention office.

### One Great Hour of Sharing Project of the Month

March 20 is a special day this year. It is Sunday, for one thing, but it is a special Sunday. On March 20, in thousands of churches across this country, church people will be making special gifts for the hungry, the homeless, the lonely in all parts of the world. Their offering will go to the Relief and Reconstruction Fund of our denomination which supports our Congregational Christian Service Committee and other ministries from money received in these offerings. Your church school can take part. Here is how.

(1) Talk with your pastor. He has received in the mail a packet of materials about "One Great Hour", so he will know what you are talking about. He will have a poster for display and materials which will be helpful to you.

(2) Plan to show the sound filmstrip, The Travelin' Man, which explains in drawings and story form the overwhelming need among refugees and other victims of war - the need for clothing, for food, for friendship and concern. The filmstrip is written for children and can be ordered from the Convention office, 673 Piedmont Ave., Atlanta.

(3) Get out the milk bottles again, to help buy milk and other things for people who need food very much, and use them to receive the offerings in each church school room.

(4) Decide how the gift is to be given - whether as a part of the church gift or as a special church school gift. In either case it should be sent to the Convention office.

(5) Work out a service of dedication for the church school's part in the offering itself.

One great hour is an annual affair now, for the need it helps to meet is ever with us. And in giving to One Great Hour you support Our Christian World Mission.

### What's In Your Mailbox?

Everyone has a mailbox, whether its a modernistic affair in the city, perfumed with climbing roses in the small town, or clustered in a row at the crossroads of a rural community.

Each day a member of the family makes a trip to the mailbox. What do you find in yours? Bills, letters from far-away friends and relatives ... advertisements.

What should you find in your mailbox? If you are a churchman or churchwoman, in every sense of the word, you should find your denominational publications—the Southeast News for a better understanding of the program of progress of the Southeast Convention; Advance to widen your thinking and to identify yourself with the greater church, the wider fellowship.

Life today calls for more neighborliness and tolerance; it calls for getting along together, and the church is the best place to learn to be friends.

A good churchman is an informed churchman. Know your church, at home and abroad, that you may better serve it.

# THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE

## "Our Mission High Fulfilling"

(Excerpts from statement presented to the Southeast Regional Meeting March 1-3 in Avon Park by Supt. Butterfield.)

Under our long-range Program of Progress now about to enter its third year, the Southeast Convention was completely reorganized with a new Constitution. After two years, there is ample evidence that this was a wise move, for it has opened the door to a continuing organizational advance, an ever widening fellowship, a fine spirit of togetherness, and a deepening concern for Our Christian World Mission.

The Board of Directors became more democratic and inclusive in its makeup and took on a new importance relative to convention-wide policy, planning, and program. Of its 27 members, 15 are elected by the Convention. The Constitution provides that the six moderators of the various conferences and associations are automatically members plus one other representative elected by each of the associations and conferences. This insures adequate area representation and at the same time puts each level of the fellowship into its proper working relationship with the other. No one group or geographical area dominates nor is there any usurpation of authority.

The four standing committees are also widely representative in that they are composed of a chairman and four members elected at large by the Convention and six more elected to the chairmanship of similar committees on the conference and associational level. These committees are charged with certain responsibilities by the convention and specific recommendations are referred to them. However, they are free to initiate new ideas and plans, and are encouraged to be as creative as possible. Since the chairman of each committee is automatically a member of the Convention Board of Directors, and expected to report at each quarterly meeting, there is a continuous exchange of information, ideas and plans for which the Board of Directors becomes the clearing house. A well-rounded thoroughly integrated full calendar of purposeful activities results.

It is a recognized principle of field work that as activity increases and churches become aware of their needs, calls for field service and staff assistance increases proportionately. With two men in the field going at full speed, or should I say "a fools pace", it has been utterly impossible to meet the needs of the local churches. We of the staff readily admit our inadequacy at this important point.

With the coming in April of the Reverend Miss Annie Campbell to the staff as Minister of Christian Education, the situation will be eased somewhat in that particular field. Miss Campbell will work out of the Atlanta office.

At the next Board of Directors meeting the

area ministry plan will be thoroughly discussed. It may well be that the answer to our administrative and promotional problems can be found by placing five mature, well educated, capable men in local churches in the five church population centers as area ministers. These men would receive their main financial support, parsonage, etc. from the church or churches they were serving with the understanding that their primary responsibility would be to the local community and congregation. The convention would then share, to a greater or lesser degree as needed, in salary and travel expense for the minister's assuming certain well-defined fellowship and promotional responsibilities among the 20 or so churches within his "area". These men would be considered part of the field staff and would participate in regular staff meetings, serve as staff counselors to the various committees, be responsible to the Superintendent, and report to the Board of Directors.

It is with a deep sense of "Our Mission High Fulfilling" that we of the Congregational Christian churches of the Southeast Convention are determined to "March On ... With Strength" as we come together in annual session April 19 and 20 for our third annual meeting and make our plans for the coming year.

I hope to see all of you at Central Church at that time.

- Erston M. Butterfield

## Southeast Regional Meeting

The annual Southeast Regional Meeting was held at Avon Park, Fla., on March 1, 2 and 3, with 20 delegates each from the Southeast Convention, the Florida Conference, the Convention of the South and the Southern Convention.

National leaders present were Dr. Stanley U. North, the Rev. Ira D. Black, the Rev. Wesley Hotchkiss, the Rev. David A. Sandstrom, and the Rev. Philip M. Widenhouse.

Delegates from the Southeast Convention were as follows: Supt. Erston M. Butterfield and Mrs. Butterfield, the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, of the Convention staff, and the Reverends Archie B. Bedford, Goff Bedford, W. C. Carpenter, Herbert Long, M. B. Porter, John E. Pickens, Jr., Collie Seymour, Lowell A. Smoot, Arnold Slater, Allyn K. Wadleigh, and Joe A. French.

Representing the laymen was William F. Gordon of Atlanta.

Representing the women and other phases of the Convention program were Mrs. H. Y. Sears, Mrs. Jettie Logan, Mrs. John Fralic, Mrs. M. B. Porter, Mrs. Arnold Slater and Mrs. Joe A. French.

Albert Van Cleave, Convention vice president of PF, represented the young people, and President Clyde C. Flannery of Southern Union College represented educational institutions within the area.

## Leadership Training

The Valley Training School for leadership training will be held at the Lanett Church in Lanett, Ala., March 20-25 with sessions each evening. Courses and instructors are listed below:

"The Youth Fellowship", taught by James Price, national Pilgrim Fellowship associate.

"The Work of the Children's Division", by the Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., of LaGrange.

"Congregational Christian Church History", by Rev. E. M. Robertson, Associate Dean A.P.I., Auburn.

"Leadership Education in the Local Church" by Dr. Lelia Anderson, the Pilgrim Circuit Rider.

"The Work of Deacons and Trustees", by Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Southeast Convention associate.

The school is open to any person from any church, and the courses may be taken for credit or without credit. Credit certificates will be issued to those who attend at least ten of the twelve class sessions and do satisfactory work. It is expected that the registration fee will not be over 75c.

Courses are set up for two classes in each subject each night, thus providing twelve class periods. The instructors, the dean and the school are accredited by the Division of Christian Education. For further information, write to the Dean, the Rev. Joe A. French, 516 Eighth St., Lanett, Ala.

The training school is sponsored by the following churches: Shawmut Todd, West Point Bethel, Lanett, Lanett Highway, Langdale, Roanoke New Hope, Chipley Oak Grove, State Line, Lafayette Pleasant Grove, LaGrange United, LaGrange Hillside.

## Society Hill Dedication

Last March 28, 1954, one of our oldest churches, Society Hill near Fort Valley, Ga., met for the dedication of its new house of worship. The congregation met in homes while the church was under construction, as materials from the old church were being used in the construction of the new church. Because of limited space, Sunday School classes had to be held out in the church yard while a Christian education addition was built by the members.

Sunday, Feb. 6th, Supt. Erston M. Butterfield, members and friends of the church and visitors from the Fort Valley Congregational Christian Church gathered for morning and afternoon services of dedication. The 13'x39' addition provides three large classrooms completely furnished, including Venetian blinds and gas heaters. The cost (and it's completely paid for) was approximately \$850 plus the countless hours of donated labor.

We congratulate the pastor, the Rev. Woodrow Dorsey, and the congregation of Society Hill for their selfless service, their determined spirit that overcame all obstacles, and their manifold efforts that their community might have this new church and Christian education building. It will be a lasting testament to their faith in each other and in the future.

## Alabama Youth Rally

A Youth Rally for North Alabama churches was held at Mountain Grove and Garden City the weekend of Feb. 26-27. Young people from Trinity and Bethlehem churches came on Saturday with their pastors, the Reverends Vell M. Bayne and Ernest Shelton. Theme for the Rally was "Training for Pilgrim Fellowship".

Mountain Grove young people conducted the opening worship. Gwendolyn Clark, North Alabama vice president, presided and made the introductions. An interesting and helpful account of the National PF meeting in New Haven, Conn., was given by Millard Fuller, convention president of PF.

The groups divided into workshops, conducted by Millard Fuller and Billie and Jack McGlawn. The Rev. Annie Campbell told about Pilgrim Fellowship organization and materials.

After a picnic supper in the basement of Mountain Grove Church, the young people enjoyed an hour of games and fellowship led by two of the Garden City young people, Glenda Washburn and Jean Vincent. The evening devotions were conducted by the group from Trinity Church. Mrs. Dorothy Reiss, Dean of Women at Southern Union College, gave a fine and helpful message.

On Sunday part of the rally was held at Garden City Church. Students from Southern Union and their leaders conducted the worship for the Sunday School hour and told about the college. Young people conducted the church service, but the message was given by Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Dean of Southern Union College, and Dr. Guy Colbert pronounced the benediction. Both churches served dinner to those who came.

The young people of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Cullman led the afternoon worship service. Two filmstrips, "Travelin' Man" and "Close Up" were shown.

- Annie R. Campbell

## Late News Flashes

Dr. James A. Fraser, pastor of the Community Church in Valparaiso, Fla., is certainly flying in high circles these days. Recently he was photographed for the local newspaper along with Maj. Gen. Patrick W. Timberlake, APGC Commander, and Lt. Col. Edward F. Hoover, Jr., commander of the 3205th Drone Gp., looking over a QF-80 during a drone demonstration in this phase of APGC activities when a drone flew overhead while he and Gen. Timberlake were playing golf.

Marriage of the Rev. J. D. Dollar and Mrs. Belle B. Sykes, member of Lanett Highway Church was solemnized on Tuesday, February 8 with only a few friends present. The Rev. A. C. Nelson performed the ceremony.

The Rev. G. Roy Walker was presented a car by the Noonday Church recently. Mr. Walker has not had a car, and living between Wadley and Roanoke, getting to the church near Wedowee was very difficult for him. Necessary parish visiting and emergency calls from the congregation required some member of the church coming to

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## The Slaters Honored

The Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, Mrs. Slater and their children Betty and Mark, were honored on the minister's 10th anniversary with a reception held recently in the church social rooms.

Sponsoring the courtesy was the Church Guild. Mrs. Frank Hodge, chairman of the hospitality committee, was in charge. Alternating at the silver coffee and tea services were Mrs. David A. Hill, president of the Guild, and Mesdames F. M. Henley, R. G. Obrecht and Emerson P. Poste and Misses Edna May Hodge and Anna Grace Roberts.

Among the local ministers who came to greet the Rev. and Mrs. Slater were Dr. William Garrett West, First Christian; Dr. Donald A. Spencer, Second Presbyterian; Dr. Bachman Hodge, Centenary; the Rev. Cato Dick, Trinity, and their wives; Rabbi Feinstein of Ochs Memorial Temple and Rabbi Aaron Walden of B'nai Zion Synagogue.

Representing Chattanooga High School, where Miss Slater attends, was Principal Creed F. Bates, and from Northside Junior High, where Mark is a pupil, were Principal and Mrs. Carl Gevers. Several were present from the Adult Education Council, of which the minister is a director; from Goodwill Industries, of which he is a former president; and from the University of Chattanooga. The United Church Women, of which Mrs. Slater is first vice president, was represented. So was the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Both the minister and his wife are active in civic as well as religious groups in the city, and the entire family is active in the work of the Southeast Convention. The Rev. Slater was Moderator in 1953, Mrs. Slater is president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Fellowship, and

## Pilgrim Did It!

The Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., recently held an every member canvass under the direction of Dr. Warren H. Denison. Results were astounding, and the pastor, the Rev. Arnold Slater states with pride:

"The faith Dr. Denison had in us was justified. We over-subscribed our budget, even though the budget was greatly increased over last year. We did more than that—we demonstrated to ourselves that we can rise to the occasion when the facts are presented.

"We did even more than that—we proved that there is a growing awareness of our deepening fellowship. Emerson P. Poste, chairman, led the men into a rich experience of which the pastor is very proud, and all of us are extremely happy with the results."

Mr. Poste added, "All of us who worked in the canvass have a deeper and more meaningful knowledge of the real meaning of stewardship."

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Betty has been an officer in the Pilgrim Fellowship for three years. Last summer Betty worked with the Student Summer Service program of the Convention. Mark has been active in Pilgrim Fellowship too, in the Junior Hi group. Both the Rev. and Mrs. Slater are members of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention.

Over 150 church members and friends called during the receiving hours. Members of the hospitality committee which planned the event were Mrs. Frank Hodge, chairman, and Mesdames Kenneth E. Hapgood, Llewellyn Evans, R. B. George (who presided over the guest book), G. Everett Farmer and Dan Maguire.



Left to right: Miss Betty Slater, the Rev. Slater, Mrs. Slater and Mark.

# Church News . . .

LANETT CHURCH members had church loyalty covenant cards distributed to them for signing in January. A record of attendance is to be kept by individuals through Easter Sunday.

The Rev. French has added some variety to the Sunday evening worship services. Each week a different member is responsible for special music. An increase in attendance and interest is evident.

Youth Sunday was observed on Feb. 13. It was a wonderful sight to see twenty young people singing in the choir while ten others rendered other services, and it proved to be an enriching experience for the large number in attendance. Buddy Faulkner led the worship with Jack R. Foster leading the responsive prayer. The Julia Elder girls rendered a trio arrangement of "In the Garden". Following this Mr. French administered baptism to Jack Foster and Wm. A. Knowles. Joining them to be extended the right hand of Christian fellowship was Mrs. John Sorrell. The service was of special significance for Mr. Foster, since he was leaving for the U. S. Navy the following week. David Daugherty sang "The Lord's Prayer" most effectively before John Ed Rhodes of Southern Union brought the morning message.

Mr. Rhodes' sermon was most helpful and we believe he will be very successful in the ministry. June Collier gave the benediction.

The Opportunity Bible Class enjoyed a covered dish supper at their monthly meeting on Feb. 11.

Landscaping our grounds is a project now well underway, with a committee composed of C. C. Sorrell, Fred Lashley, Frank Moon, John Dollar, Jr. and Ross Boggs working with the landscape architect.

Church Builders Day was observed on Feb. 20 with about forty signing membership cards. We expect still more memberships to come in soon.

A new circle for Junior High girls has been organized, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Frank Hatcher. The girls have chosen the name "Esther" and will meet every two weeks on Thursday afternoons. This brings our number of circles to eight.

- Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

\* \* \*

Alfred Adams, Grover Scott, and Arthur Wallace were ordained as deacons in the Andalusia First Church in an impressive ceremony on Feb. 13. The pastor, the Rev. Edward Knight, had done considerable work in the planning and organization of this service and it was well attend-



Youth Sunday participants, left to right: Buddy Faulkner, leader; Carolyn French, organist; LaRue Morris, pianist; John Ed Rhodes of Southern Union College, speaker; Ushers — Buddy Collier, Charles Sorrell, F. L. Miller, Melvin Roquemore, Buddy Osborne and David Hill.

ed. Mr. Knight was assisted in this service by Hilton Blackmon and Ben Locklier.

On Feb. 13 the Youth Sunday, the Sunday School class voted to buy a rug for their classroom. A committee composed of Edgene Peevy, Patty Carter, and the class president, Anita Briggs, selected and bought a nice rug. Von Polson and Wayne Eubanks agreed to use their skill in laying the rug. The room looks much cosier with the old rug out and the new rug in.

The WMS rally of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association met at this church Mar. 12, with good attendance and a very informative, inspirational and enjoyable program.

\* \* \*

The Senior Pilgrim Fellowship of Andalusia Antioch Church has recently begun studying the different religious beliefs. They are using the book "I Believe" and are learning a great deal. January 30 was Youth Sunday, and the group had charge of the morning worship service. They used the regular order of worship. Winnie Baisden gave the Call to Worship, the Invocation and led the Lord's Prayer. Mary Evelyn Thrasher led the responsive reading, which was followed by the anthem, "Give of Your Best to the Master". Betty Baisden made announcements and read the scripture lesson. Loretta Merrill led "The Church at Prayer". Offerings were taken by Joe Harrelson and Lenard Worley. The sermon was preached by Etta Wilkerson and Joe Royce Adams, and Joe Royce gave the closing prayer. The service had the theme "One Fellowship in Christ".

Following our regular Fifth Sunday fellowship dinner, the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship presented a movie they had made on the story of "The Good Samaritan".

The Senior PF met at the church recently and waxed the floor. Both Junior and Senior groups have been working hard and we are very proud of them. Along with the work they have had recreation too. The Senior PF had a skating party in January and enjoyed it very much, but groaned a great deal the next day from aching muscles. Mrs. Berry was an ice-skater when she lived where there is ice for skating, so she made out very well. Rev. Berry did not groan much, but he went about his duties the next day in such a way that we could tell he'd had a few bumps too.

The Ladies Missionary Society presented a guest book to the church, placed near the entrance for our guests to sign.

The Christian Education Committee sponsored a shower for our church school on Jan. 22, with the whole family invited. Many needed articles were given for the class rooms, and a social hour of games and refreshments was enjoyed by all.

- Mrs. Winnie Dye, reporter

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The Pilgrim Fellowship of the Headland Blackwood Church initiated the movement of securing new church hymn books. They donated \$25 from their treasury, and solicited additional donations. The PF has contributed \$5 to OCWM this quarter. Lamar Rister is president, and Mrs. Pera Kennedy is the adult advisor.

Considerable repairs and improvements have been made on the Community Building recently.

It has been painted both inside and outside. Gas heat has been installed. The Midland City school donated a discarded curtain, and our women used them in making drapes for the windows, greatly enhancing the beauty of the building.

On Feb. 6 Pete Ward, a ministerial student of Fender, Ga., supplied our pulpit. We were delighted with the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Ward and greatly appreciated the inspirational message he gave us.

On February 27 the Rev. Lyman Bramson, a retired Methodist missionary gave a very inspiring message.

Blackwoods church observed "Church Builders Club Day" on Feb. 20. Attendance was good and four new members were enrolled.

- Dora Brackin, reporter

\* \* \*

Youth Sunday was observed at Elder Church of Dadeville, Ala., on Feb. 6th. The young people of the church always take a very active part in the regular church services, but on this day they had charge of everything. The service will long be remembered by the community as one of the most inspiring of the year.

A Litany on "The Lord's Prayer" was chosen as the devotional to open the Sunday School hour. Adult and young people's classes were combined for the day and taught by Barbara June Brassel. Although only 15 years old, she showed much poise and competence in bringing the lesson to the people. Wayne Washburn taught the Juniors, and Carolyn Fuller the Primaries. Both did excellent jobs.

At the worship hour Herbert Lee Fuller, Jr. took charge and the following participated in the program, with Barbara June Brassel leading the singing: Mrs. Rose Ingram, Carolyn Fuller, Sue Brassel, Barbara June Brassel, Wayne Washburn, Ronnie Jennings, and Sarah Duck.

After the service, the parents of the PF members were delightfully surprised when Mrs. Rose Ingram, adult advisor for the group, invited them to a buffet supper at her home that evening. The Pilgrim Fellowship met in the afternoon and boys and girls stayed to help prepare the meal, thereby proving they were good cooks as well as speakers. The Rev. and Mrs. Donald Ross were also present at the supper.

The Women's Missionary Society met Feb. 21 for a program "Pray Without Ceasing", which was given by Mrs. Woodroe Washburn and Mrs. Rose Ingram. The Woman's Gift was dedicated at this meeting.

- Mrs. W. W. Washburn, reporter

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The annual meeting of the Evarts Church was held on Jan. 12th, and the Rev. Collie Seymour expressed appreciation for the spirit of co-operation and good will manifested, the devotion and loyalty shown by officers and people.

A preaching mission for Holy Week, April 3-10, is being planned again this year. The church will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing and plans regular Family Fellowship Suppers to create a better spirit of church fellowship.

On March 15 Miss Mildred Widbur and James Price will conduct a workshop institute on Church School and Youth Work.

Church officers were elected as follows: W. A. Buckner, clerk; J. H. Turner, treasurer; Miss Doris Turner, benevolence treasurer; Mrs. W. E. Pierce, financial secretary; Miss Betty Pace, corresponding secretary; N. B. Smith, historian; Mrs. T. C. Linkous, organist; W. A. Buckner, church school supt.; Mrs. Wilma Asher, church school secretary; Miss Pat Repass, asst. church school secretary; finance committee - J. H. Turner, Mrs. W. E. Pierce, Miss Maude Woodall, Miss Doris Turner, Mrs. Dennis Ball; Pilgrim Fellowship advisors - Minnie Griggs, Virginia Pierce; Trustee, Carson Coleman; Deacon, C. L. Howard; Deaconess, Mrs. Hallie Repass; Deaconess Emeritus, Mrs. E. L. Vaughn; Ushers Committee - Paul Ed. Hayes, Orin Turner, Jr., Jackie Walker; Flower Committee - Mrs. J. H. Turner, Mrs. E. L. Vaughn; Church Board Members-at-large - Mrs. Rosalyn Langley and Mrs. T. C. Linkous.

\* \* \*



**Mrs. Branch, Mrs. Hobbs and Rev. Hobbs**

The Women's Fellowship of Baxley Friendship Church held a quilting party Jan. 20. Everyone had an enjoyable evening, and refreshments were served by Mrs. R. B. Smiley and Mrs. W. C. Mincey. The quilt was presented to Rev. and Mrs. Ashley Hobbs at the Sunday evening service by Mrs. Lennie Branch.

The Women's Fellowship presented a 48-cup coffee driplator to the church to be used in the new kitchen - almost completed. This group also furnished Venetian blinds for the church auditorium. We are very proud of the work of the ladies of our church.

The Pilgrim Fellowship sponsored a candle-light service at the Sunday evening service on Jan. 2 with the entire congregation taking part. This beautiful service will be long remembered. Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Smiley have been elected by the PF to assist Mr. and Mrs. Troy Beach and Mr. and Mrs. Loma Perry as their adult advisors.

Miss Jo Ann Beach and Everett Carter were joined in Holy Matrimony on Jan. 8. Both are active members of Friendship Church.

- Mrs. W. C. Mincey, reporter

## Church Building Loan Fund

When the churches of the Southeast Convention pledge to do something, they do it! Already 36 of them have completed their pledges to the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign, according to a report from the National office. These Honor Roll churches are listed below:

### ALABAMA—

Alexander City, Antioch  
Andalusia, Coldwater  
Arley, Robertson's Chapel  
Dadeville, Elder  
East Tallassee, Liberty  
Lineville, Spring Hill  
Midland City, Christian Hill  
Mountain Creek, Union  
Roanoke, First  
Roanoke, Forest Home  
Roanoke, Rock Springs  
Seman, Balm Gilead  
Seman, Community  
Shawmut, Todd  
Steele, Mt. Lebanon  
Steppville, Mt. Grove  
Tallassee, Mt. Olivet  
Wadley, Congregational  
Wadley, Beulah

### FLORIDA—

Baker, Good Hope  
Baker, Pyron's Chapel  
Crestview, Dorcas

### GEORGIA—

Barnesville, Fredonia  
Chipley, Oak Grove  
Demorest, Federated  
Doerun, New Light  
Doerun, Poplar Arbor  
Pearson, Union Hill  
The Rock, Bethany  
Woodbury, Jones Chapel

### TENNESSEE—

Chattanooga, Pilgrim  
Crossville, First  
Daisy, First  
Deer Lodge  
Glen Mary  
Memphis, First

The total amount pledged by churches of the Southwest Convention was \$30,140.35. The total amount received by the CBLF, through Jan. 10, was \$16,399. Churches which have not sent in their final payments are urged to do so as soon as possible in 1955.

## Miss Mildred Widber

*(From page 3)*

denomination in 1937. In this post she served in the Division of Christian Education of the Board of Home Missions as she does now.

As a writer on subjects dealing with the child mind and its religious nurture, as a leader in summer conferences and local institutes, and as an adviser through personal interviews and correspondence, Miss Widber is widely known throughout the denomination.

## STEWARSHIP

Since the Southeast Convention voted last May to become autonomous and self-supporting, we have necessarily concentrated this past year on stewardship, and the word itself has taken on a broader and deeper significance than ever before.

Just as individuals are entrusted with life and means through which to serve God as **stewards**, so Churches are likewise. East Church is entrusted by God with a corporate life and means to serve Him. As our churches increasingly understand and carry out their mission in local communities and in the world, they are faithful stewards of their trust. Reports keep coming in to tell of increased activity, improved facilities, and larger participation in Our Christian World Mission. It is apparent that there is a general upward swing in the stewardship of the Churches.

As this is true of individuals and of Churches, it is also true of the Convention. Through the fellowship of our Congregational Christian Churches, the Southeast Convention has life and means to serve God. It likewise bears the responsibility of being a steward. It has work to do that individuals and Churches could not do by themselves.

In the Southwest Convention only a few of our churches are strong and vigorous. Many are weak and in need of help. Looking down the list of the 119 churches of the area, we are surprised at how much the Convention has been able to help during the past year . . . through the aid to churches program . . . through the Convention committees . . . through help with the Every Member Canvass . . . through visits from the Superintendent to advise on special problems . . . through institutes, the Convocation and study course.

Sometimes it has seemed that some of our Churches are so busy with their own stewardship and their own problems that they have not realized how faithful the Convention is being in its stewardship. It is only as the churches are faithful in their stewardship, through giving to Our Christian World Mission, that the Convention has the means to carry on the Program of Progress.

During January and February some churches have neglected to send in their monthly pledge as given on "Our Day of Decision." This seriously hampers the work of the Superintendent and the Board of Directors, and will mean that the work must be cut back. The 1954-55 budget was set up with the expectation of receiving funds as indicated on the Decision Cards last October. There is so much that needs to be done . . . so many churches calling for help in various phases of their work . . . must we turn down their pleas because we do not have the necessary funds?

As the congregation is faithful to the local church, as the Church is faithful to the Convention, so the Convention in turn is strengthened and can be faithful to the churches in need of help, and the work of the Kingdom advanced.

There is also our responsibility to the wider fellowship—the denominational boards and agencies which carry on the work at home and abroad. Let us be faithful to them too.

## The Need for Lent

The Christian world is somewhat divided on the question of observing Lent. There is a marked increase of late in the observance of this season. Even the churches that do not recognize it as obligatory or even as traditional, are united in counting the death and resurrection of Christ as central in religious teaching. Easter is a high spot in the church year and the observance of the forty days preceding Easter as a holy season has great possibilities for building up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Lent is useful in increasing church attendance, and many people are awakened or renew spiritually by the Lenten services.

Lent places special emphasis on the sacrificial elements in Christ's life and death. He lived not for Himself, but for others; not to be served, but to serve. His giving his life a sacrifice for sinful men is a challenge to all of us. We can only follow Him by living a life in which sacrifice has a prominent place.

In every way Lent stands for an increased interest in religion. We continually glory in our material progress—greatest of any era in human history. But alas! how much the world needs religion in the twentieth century! The future of America will not depend so much on automobiles and radios as upon the religion and morals of the people. And morals thus far have never greatly flourished apart from religion and churches. Our churches are not suffering so much from enemies as from indifferent friends. May the Lenten period give us a breathing spell from our round of pleasures, so that we may think soberly of spiritual things and give ourselves whole-heartedly to Christ and His church. The very fact that so many observe the season, so many in the community and so many in the nation, may quicken our zeal. The death of Christ is called the world's greatest tragedy, but it paved the way for Easter. Through the risen Lord is eternal life offered to all who will accept. Only a Christian can fully appreciate Lent.

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# THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

## Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches

The third annual meeting of the Southeast Convention, organized in 1949 and holding the biennial meetings until 1953, will be held April 19 and 20 at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

"On to the New Day" is the theme for the 1955 meeting, and the convention hymn will be "March on O Soul with Strength" (1,2&3 verses).

The Rev. Lowell A. Smoot, moderator, will call the delegates to order at 10:30 a.m. on April 19th. Luncheons on the 19th and 20th and dinner on the evening of the 20th will be available at Central Church to those who make advance reservations.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Fred S. Buschmeyer, Director of the Department of the Ministry and Associate Minister of the General Council, at 2:15 p.m. on the 19th. An American Board presentation, with direct reports from foreign fields, will be featured for the evening program. Superintendent Butterfield will direct this program, and Dr. Armstrong Hunter, Research Secretary, is assisting with the preparations for it.

On April 20th the day will begin with the fellowship breakfasts, to be held separately for laymen and ministers, women, and young people, with programs prepared by the respective presidents: Herman D. Cook, Mrs. Lowell A. Smoot, and Millard Fuller. Walter A. Graham, national director of the Laymen's Fellowship, has been invited to speak to the men; and Mrs. Wm. T. Scott, wife of Superintendent Scott of the Southern Convention, will be speaker for the women.

The afternoon program of March 20th will consist of the Services of Dedication and Remembrance, and Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield will deliver the Convention Sermon. Officers and committee members will be installed, and all delegates and visitors will be invited to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Adjournment has been set for 3:00 p.m.

All delegates and visitors are urged to check with pastors and church clerks for the information sheets, reservations cards, etc., which have gone out to each church. You are urged to send in reservations cards to Central Church in Atlanta as soon as possible, in order that arrangements may be made for the luncheons and dinners. Those who do not make advance reservations will find several good restaurants in the neighborhood.

Delegates and visitors will make their own individual hotel reservations, from information given in the materials sent to ministers and churches.

In order to avoid confusion and delay in registration, delegates will register at the first luncheon meeting at the tables, and will pay registration fee, and purchase meal tickets desired and reserved in advance, at that time. The program committee has tried very hard to plan for a smooth, efficient handling of registration this year.

## Christian Education - James Price

(From page 3)

Youth Committee and attended the Second Assembly of the World Council in Evanston, Ill.

Interested also in interdenominational youth work in the USA, Mr. Price served as Vice Chairman of the United Christian Youth Movement attending various conferences, including the Denver Assembly of the National Council of Churches in 1953.

"There is a renewed enthusiasm and growing Christian fellowship among church youth and they have a deepening concern for the work of our churches. Patience and faith are needed to lend wisdom, courage and hope to these willing young churchmen. By placing confidence in them, by understanding their needs, and by showing them Christ's love, one may guide young people into mature Christian leadership," says Mr. Price.

## Late News Flashes

(From page 6)

get him. The car will be of much value and help to him in his work.

The Rev. J. W. Davenport is temporarily supplying the church at Thorsby, Ala., which has been without a pastor since last August.

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## BUSY YOUNG MINISTER

The Rev. David W. Clark, pastor of Roanoke Lowell Church, is president of the Randolph County Ministerial Association, and is also president of the East Alabama-West Georgia Ministerial Association.

Mr. Clark is an enthusiastic worker for the Church Builders Club in his area too.